

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 158617
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158617

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM, CB

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

1. REQUEST USUN DISCUSS WITH UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
BUFFUM DEPARTMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA AND THE ROLE WHICH THE
UN MIGHT PLAY. IN PARTICULAR, WE WONDER WHETHER THE UN
HAS MADE CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC
KAMPUCHEA PURSUANT TO DECISION 9 (XXXIV) OF THE 34TH
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. UNDER THIS DECISION THE
COMMISSION REQUESTED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO TRANSMIT
TO THAT GOVERNMENT THE DOCUMENTS AND SUMMARY RECORDS OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 158617

THE 34TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION RELATING TO THE HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAT COUNTRY, WITH A VIEW TO INVITING
ITS COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS.

2. THE DECISION FURTHER PROVIDES THAT THE RESPONSE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, TOGETHER WITH ALL
INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE ABOUT THE SITUATION,

SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AS A RESULT OF HRC DECISION 9, DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA WILL BE EXAMINED BY

THE SUBCOMMISSION ON DISCRIMINATION AND MINORITIES AT ITS 1978 REGULAR SESSION, WHICH OPENS IN GENEVA AUGUST 28. AS BUFFUM MAY BE AWARE, DEPARTMENT WILL BE SUBMITTING DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL TO UN IN TIME FOR SUBCOMMISSION SESSION.

3. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT THE COMMUNICATION WHICH WAS RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA DATED APRIL 22, 1978 AND CIRCULATED TO ALL PERMANENT MISSIONS OF UN MEMBER STATES MAKES NO REFERENCE TO THE DECISION OF THE HRC.

4. USUN SHOULD EXPLAIN TO BUFFUM THAT DEPARTMENT IS ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR A USEFUL UN INVOLVEMENT. ONE POSSIBILITY IS AN EVENTUAL APPROACH BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO CAMBODIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO EMPHASIZE INTERNATIONAL CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE. AT THIS STAGE WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BUFFUM'S THINKING ABOUT THE QUESTION IN LIGHT OF ANY CONTACTS WHICH MAY
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PAGE 03 STATE 158617

HAVE BEEN MADE BY UN WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. IF CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE WE WONDER WHETHER THEY HAVE SHOWN ANY INCLINATION ON THE PART OF THAT GOVERNMENT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE WORLD CONCERN OVER THIS PROBLEM.

5. IF CONTACTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PURSUANT TO HRC DECISION 9 (XXXIV), WE URGE THAT THEY BE SET IN MOTION PROMPTLY. VANCE

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